

**Constitution  
of  
Greenville Chinese Christian Church**

- ARTICLE I: NAME  
The name of this church shall be the Greenville Chinese Christian Church
- ARTICLE II: PURPOSE  
The purpose of this church is to glorify God. It exists for: the worship and service of God; the teaching of His Word; the proclamation of His saving grace; the building up, fellowship, and discipline of those who believe the Son; the practice of holiness; and the rendering of compassionate service to all regardless of social class or race.
- ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH  
See other page
- ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP  
Membership in this church shall be based upon an individual personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Each candidate for membership should be able to give a testimony of faith in Christ and a desire to live a consistent Christian life. The candidate should be baptized, if not baptized previously. Such persons show evidence of a satisfactory attitude toward the doctrinal standards of this church and its Constitution, and are willing to be in submission to the church. The church through its officers shall examine and receive candidates for membership upon affirmation of their faith.
- ARTICLE V: GOVERNMENT  
This church recognizes Jesus Christ as the Head and supreme authority for all its actions and functions. Under Christ the government of this church shall be vested in its members acting through an Executive Board which consists of pastor(s), elders and deacons. In case of non-existence of pastor(s) and elder(s), Deacon Board will take up the Executive Board. In all matters, the goal shall be to function by consensus of opinion and in unity, seeking to know and follow the mind of Christ.
- ARTICLE VI: AFFILIATION  
This church shall be organizationally unaffiliated with any denomination. However, fellowship and cooperation with other churches and groups of like faith and purpose shall be encouraged.
- ARTICLE VII: DISSOLUTION  
This church is organized exclusively for religious, educational, and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If this organization is ever dissolved, all the assets thereof shall be transferred to an organization or organizations organized exclusively for religious, educational, and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as it now exists, or as it may be amended. The provisions of this article shall remain irrevocable.
- ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS  
This Constitution may be amended only by 3/4 of the members present and voting at a meeting duly called and announced at least 4 weeks before, provided that the subject for change is announced in writing.  
(The latest amendments to the Constitution were made during the Annual Congregational Meeting on March, 2018.)

**By-Laws of  
Greenville Chinese Christian Church, Greenville  
South Carolina**

The by-laws are established in accordance with the Constitution of the Greenville Chinese Christian Church as standards for the administration of the ministry of the church.

**ARTICLE I: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

**1.1 Qualifications**

Members of Greenville Chinese Christian Church (GCCC) must be in general agreement with the purpose, direction, administration, and discipline of the church; abide by Constitution and By-Laws of GCCC; and attend GCCC Sunday services regularly for the past six months. One may become a member of GCCC by any of the following methods:

1. Public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior, followed by acceptable baptism into new membership of the church. Acceptable baptism is defined in the church by-laws.
2. By transfer of membership from another church of like faith and order.
3. By statement that he or she has trusted Jesus as personal Savior and was previously baptized but a record of membership is not available.
4. is of age 16 or older

New comers need to attend Sunday services regularly for six months. A committee formed by elders and pastors will be responsible for inviting appropriate believers to join the church. In the absence of the committee, the deacon board takes this responsibility.

**1.2 Responsibilities of Members**

Each member should:

- (1) desire to share the responsibility of maintaining and developing of the church through regular attendance and frequent prayer, financial giving, and whatever ministries the Lord enables;
- (2) maintain a devoted life through Bible reading and prayer to seek God's will and blessings both for his / her individual life and for the church and its leaders;
- (3) regularly ask the Lord to help him / her and all members to grow in obedience in all areas of life, especially in the love for one another and fulfillment of the Great Commission; and
- (4) actively participate in the decision making process in membership meetings.

### 1.3 Church Discipline

If the life or conduct of a member is contrary to the Word of God, he/she may be asked by executive board members for explanation, and disciplinary action in accordance with the principles set forth in the Bible may be taken.

### 1.4 Termination of Membership

A member may withdraw his/her membership voluntarily by giving notice to the Executive Board.

If a member has moved permanently out of this locality, his / her membership will be terminated. Such person is encouraged to affiliate him/herself with a church of like faith and practice in his / her new locality.

If a member is absent from the worship service of the church for one year in succession, or has failed to keep up with the membership qualifications, his / her membership shall be terminated.

### 3.5 Types of Church Membership

Church membership at the Greenville Chinese Christian Church shall be either Full Membership or Associate Membership. Full Membership is given those who desire membership at the Greenville Chinese Christian Church. Associate Membership is reserved for individuals with all of the following conditions:

- (1) one who is in Greenville/Spartanburg for a short-term,
- (2) one whose home church is outside the Greenville/Spartanburg area,
- (3) one whose desire is to be a member in the ministry of the Greenville Chinese Christian Church, and
- (4) one whose home church does not allow membership in any other church, with the exception being an Associate Membership. Full Members and Associate Members have the same membership privileges.

## ARTICLE II : ORDINANCES

### 2.1 Baptism

Baptism by immersion, or sprinkling, or pouring is recognized as a scriptural ordinance to signify the union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. However, baptism by immersion is to be practiced in this church whenever possible. Those who are baptized in this church and meet the qualifications in Article I.1.1 of the By-Laws will become members.

Those with circumstances that would not allow participation as a member of the church may receive exemption from membership as approved by the Executive Board.

### 2.2 The Lord's Supper (Communion)

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper (Communion) shall be observed regularly. Everyone who is redeemed by the blood of Christ and has received baptism is welcome, but believers should be advised to participate after self-examination.

- 2.3 Baptism and the Lord's Supper are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace. They are only administered by lawfully ordained minister of the Word.

### ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

#### 3.1 Annual Meeting

A membership meeting should be conducted on the first or second Sunday of January every year, to elect officers, to receive ministerial and financial reports from the boards, and to pray, to seek the will of the Lord and consider matters concerning the church as a whole, such as the calling of a pastor, the securing of a new church building, etc.

The date, the agenda, and the proposals should be announced and posted by the Executive Board 3 weeks before the meeting. Other proposals and amendments must be submitted to the Board at least 2 weeks before the meeting by 2 or more members. These proposals shall be posted by the Board, along with whatever counter-proposals or amendments the Board may have, at least 1 week before the meeting.

#### 3.2 Special Meetings

Special membership meetings may be called by the Executive Board whenever the Board considers it necessary and should be announced at least 2 weeks before the meeting. In case of an emergency, the Board may call a meeting in less than 2 weeks.

#### 3.3 Quorum & Voting

A Quorum shall be a simple majority of the church membership. If a quorum is not met, the meeting may adjourn to a stated time at least two weeks later. Notice of the adjournment shall be announced and posted on the intervening Sunday(s). If a quorum cannot be met after three trials, the proposal will be dropped.

### ARTICLE IV: GOVERNMENT

#### 4.1 Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of pastor(s), elders and deacons. In case of non existence of pastor(s) and elder(s), Deacon Board will take up the Executive Board, a selected deacon will serve as coordinator. The coordinator will consult the deacon board to plan and direct the execution of church ministries. The coordinator will also conduct board meetings.

The Board shall hold quarterly meetings for prayer and business, and shall report to the members of the church annually and at whatever time the need may arise.

The quorum of the regular monthly Executive Board meeting shall be seventy-five percent of active Board members.

The term active Board Members refers to those who were duly elected to serve on the Board and are expected to be able and willing to continue in their duties as Board members without impairment.

The quorum of any Executive Board meeting including special meetings called for special discussions shall also be seventy-five percent of active Board members. A special Board meeting requires three (3) days advanced notice to be legitimate.

Emergency Board meetings may be called without advanced notification when there is an emergency situation. Examples of emergency situations include high likelihood of severe impairment to church interest upon in-action, such impairment may include high probability of harm or danger to life or safety of individuals, or high probability of significant loss in value or substantial damages to properties, or other significant adverse events. Emergency meetings can be held over telephone or other reasonable means of communication.

Quorum for emergency meeting is either (a) two Board members with one of them being a coordinator of the Board, or (b) if a coordinator of the Board is unavailable, the quorum for emergency meeting shall be three Board members.

Decisions made during emergency meeting need to be unanimous to be legitimate. Active Board members who did not participate in the emergency meeting are to be informed about the called emergency meeting and any decision(s) made, such information may be conveyed by any reasonable means of communication, e.g. e-mail or telephone, if practically possible, within a reasonable time period.

Decisions made during emergency meetings are to be ratified during next regular Board meeting if possible. Decisions made during emergency meeting may also be modified during subsequent regular Board meeting as situation changes or there are differing opinions.

#### 4.2 Consulting Pastor and Elder Council

The church shall invite and appoint at least three outside experienced pastors or elders to form the Consulting Pastor and Elder Council. Members of the Consulting Pastor and Elder Council should be recommended by the Executive Board and approved by at least two-thirds of votes in church's congregation meeting. The Consulting Pastor and Elder Council shall assist in the pastoral staff search, the appointment of elders of the church, as well to assist in severe church disputes to lend their expertise and spiritual authority to church governance.

Members of the Consulting Pastor and Elder Council have no term limits. In situations when a member cannot fulfill his/her duties as a member, the church shall go through the aforementioned process to invite and appoint a new council member.

#### 4.3 Board of Deacons

A minimum of five deacons are confirmed according to Biblical qualifications to serve in the Executive Board. They shall be assigned to specific task in order to conduct the administration of church ministries. The nomination of deacons shall be submitted by more than two church members through annual member meetings. Further nomination of deacons from congregation may be submitted by two or more church members to the Executive Board for examination according to the same qualifications set forth.

Deacons are confirmed by three-quarters of votes in a membership meeting. The maximum continuous service of a deacon are three years. It is recommended that one-third of the deacons are rotated off every year, when the church grows to a certain size.

#### 4.4 Pastor and Full-time Ministers

A pastor or a full-time minister is an appointed full-time pastoral staff who will oversee the complete ministry of the church. He is an ex-officio member of all Boards and Committees. He must accept the responsibility from the Lord to equip the believers through preaching, teaching, training and shepherding for the work of the Gospel ministry and for the edification and up building of the Body of Christ. He must meet the qualifications of an Elder as stated in I Timothy 3:1-7. The Executive Board shall provide feedback to the pastor regarding his ministry every year.

In case of a vacancy, the Executive Board shall appoint a Pastoral Search Committee to search for prospective candidates who are called to the ministry, meet the scriptural qualifications of a teaching elder, and be able to carry out the stated purpose of the church. The Pastoral Search Committee should consist of representatives from the present Executive Board and from the congregation. More than half of affirmative votes in a membership meeting are required for the formation of Pastoral Search Committee. The choice of the pastoral candidate should be confirmed by three-quarters of votes in a membership meeting, provided that the total affirmative votes exceed three-quarters of the membership. A special period of prayer by the whole church shall be conducted before that special meeting.

A renewable contract shall be entered between the pastor and the church specifying the terms of appointment. The contract shall be recommended by the Executive Board and confirmed by at least two-thirds affirmative votes in a membership meeting.

Resignation of the pastor requires at least a six month notice to the Executive Board, unless he is asked to resign by the Executive Board and three quarters of votes of all members, along with close consultation and recommendation with the Consulting Pastor and Elder Council. In case that the Executive Board intends to recommend the removal of a pastor, it should pray fervently to seek God's will.

The church may ordain pastor(s) if such a need arises. The candidate(s) must have served in the church for at least one year and have the recommendation of the Executive Board, along with close consultation with the Consulting Pastor and Elder Council to form an ordination committee that consists of qualified pastors and elders from outside of the church to examine the candidate's faith, calling, gifts, and qualifications. Upon receiving recommendation from the ordination committee, the church shall affirm the ordination of the pastor by affirmative votes of at least three quarters of quorum provided that the total affirmative votes exceed three-quarters of membership.

#### 4.5 *Elders*

Elders shall meet the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and I Peter 5:1-4. Elders and the pastor shall faithfully share their responsibilities as overseers of the church and shepherds of the congregation. Elders should prayerfully seek the direction of the ministry, and provide biblical and spiritual guidance for doctrinal clarification and disciplinary actions should such actions are needed.



